

Patent  
Attorney Docket No.: P10-1215.DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Bernard Bon

Confirmation No: 5043

Serial No: 10/695,675

Filed: October 29, 2003

Examiner: Hai Vo

Group Art No: 1771

Customer No.: 27215

For: Process for Manufacturing a Tire  
Safety Support and Support Obtained  
by this Process

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DECLARATION OF BERNARD BON

1. My name is Bernard Bon and I have been an employee of Michelin for 34 years. I have a degree in industrial chemistry. I have worked in the tire industry for 34 years.

2. I have read the Office Action that is dated March 9, 2006 regarding the above captioned pending patent application.

3. I have read the relevant parts of U.S. Patent No. 6,380,294 issued to Babinec, *et al.*

4. My invention is a cross-linkable, expandable blank for an elastomeric safety support, the support being capable of being mounted on a wheel rim within a tire and a method of making the support. (Claims 7,8,10 and 11). I can find no mention in Babinec of a safety support that can be mounted on a wheel rim within a tire.

5. While the Examiner is correct in mentioning that Babinec discloses that one of the types of compositions disclosed by Babinec can be used as a tire, a tire is not the support of my invention that is mounted on a wheel rim within a tire.

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6. Furthermore, the tire disclosed by Babinec is made of a product that is not foamed while the product made by means of my claimed process is a foamed product. Therefore, the products disclosed by Babinec are not at all similar to my foamed safety support product made by my claimed process.

7. The Examiner has stated in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the water in the range claimed in my patent application motivated by the desire to effect coalescing and welding of the beads to form the article. While Babinec does disclose the use of steam to heat beads of his material, it is the heating that effects coalescing and welding of the beads to make the article, not the addition of water to the beads. Therefore, in my opinion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to use water in the range claimed in my patent application to effect coalescing and welding of the beads to form an article.

8. My invention provides unexpected and surprising results in that the safety support of my invention, which is mounted on a wheel but inside of a tire when in use, expands much more when heated to 100 °C than a control sample as shown in Table III of the specification of my patent application. Also, surprisingly, while the control sample only expanded by 37 percent when heated to 150 °C, a support of my invention expanded by 110 percent by more than doubling in size when heated to 150 °C as shown in Table II of the specification.

9. My invention further demonstrates surprising results shown in FIG. 1, wherein a support of my invention reached a level temperature of 150 °C while the control support climbed to a temperature in excess of 200 °C.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these

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statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

SIGNATURE:

  
BERNARD BON

DATE:

September 1, 2006